

## **MESSAGE FROM THE CDC ON POTENTIAL FLUORIDE SHORTAGE**

### **August 2007**

Many water utilities have experienced fluorosilicic acid delivery disruptions in the past several months. Several industry sources have indicated to us that these shortages are regional in nature and may last through the summer, but will likely improve later in the year. The supply of dry additives, sodium fluoride and sodium fluorosilicate are not expected at this time to be negatively impacted by fluorosilicic acid disruptions.

For the next several months, water utilities are advised that delivery of fluorosilicic acid may experience supply limitations and unreliable delivery. Here are some ways that a utility can work to minimize supply disruptions both now and in the future.

- Place orders early. When the supply is anticipated to be limited, it is important that suppliers have a reasonable idea of when orders will be placed and are given sufficient lead time.
- Monitor inventories. It is important to understand the inventory of product available within a facility so that orders can be placed in a timely fashion.
- Calibrate pump delivery. Most fluorosilicic acid is handled by metering pumps, but often facilities do not properly calibrate the pump delivery. Regular and careful calibration of the metering pumps can ensure that sufficient solution is delivered within the optimal range, to extend supplies.

If a water system anticipates that they are going to exhaust their supply of fluoride, it is important to notify the state fluoridation program of the termination date and date of resumption. For a community that has been consistently fluoridating, a few days or even weeks should not result in an adverse oral health influence to a community, as tooth decay develops slowly over time. Be sure to notify your customers of the situation so they understand you are doing everything reasonable to ensure safe and healthy water for your community.

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